(c) Trade and industry have on the whole welcomed the liberalised trade policy.

(d) No, Sir.

Proposal to export non-Basmati rice

2358. DR. RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI': Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to export non-basmati rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) With effect from 15.1.93, export superfine non-basmati rice, that is to say non-basmati rice whose export price is not less than US $ 275 per MT (f.o.b.), is allowed freely without a licence. Non-basmati rice whose export price is less than US $ 275 per MT is not permitted to be exported.

(c) During the period from April, 1992 to January, 1993, 2,38,512.4 MTs of Non-basmati rice (including superfine non-basmati rice) valued at Rs. 164.20 crores have been exported.

Proposal to prune the negative list of exports

2359. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to prune the negative list of exports; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and details of the negative list of exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

The details of Negative list of Exports are given in Chapter XVI of the Exim Policy, 1992-97.

(b) Consideration of changes in the Negative List of Exports is an ongoing process keeping in view the needs of Industry and Public Interest.

Signing of new agreement with European Community

2360. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to sign a new cooperation agreement with the European Community for the development of business cooperation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal retains the positive elements of the existing Indo-EEC Agreement. Besides, it broadens the scope of cooperation further to cover a wide range of subjects.

Imposition of duty on imports by U.S.A.

2361. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA have imposed duties on the import